

True Northerner.

PAW PAW, MICHIGAN, FEB. 10, 1871.

S. T. CONWAY, EDITOR.

Republican State Convention.

A Republican State Convention to nominate a Justice of the Supreme Court, in place of JAMES V. CAMPBELL, and two Regents of the State University, in place of JAMES A. SWEEZEY and CYRUS M. STOCKWELL, will be held in the CITY OF LANSING, on THURSDAY, the TWENTY-THIRD day of FEBRUARY, at 11 o'clock A. M. The several counties will be entitled to two delegates for each Representative in the lower branch of the State Legislature, and every organized county having no representation will be entitled to one delegate.

By the resolution of 1858, no delegate will be entitled to a seat who does not reside in the county he represents.

S. D. BINGHAM, Chairman.

J. K. BOER, W. W. MITCHELL,
ED. LEFAYOUR, R. GOODRICH,
J. H. JONES, JOHN HERRARD,
F. B. STOCKBRIDGE, M. S. BROWER,
JAMES O'DONNELL, C. K. ROBINSON,
FREDERICK MITCHELL, CHAS. E. HOLLAND,
Republican State Central Committee.
January 17, 1871.

Republican County Convention.

There will be a County Convention held at LAWRENCE, on SATURDAY, the 18th inst., at one o'clock, p. m., for the purpose of electing four delegates to the Republican State Convention, to be held at Lansing, on Thursday, the 23d day of February, at 11 o'clock, a. m., to nominate a Justice of the Supreme Court and two Regents of the State University. The several Townships are requested to send delegates.

A. S. HASKINS, Chm'n Rep. Co. Com.

Correspondence of the True Northerner.

LOCAL HISTORY.

Being Recollections and Reminiscences of the Early Settlers.

It is well for us to pause occasionally amid the hurry and bustle of every day life, and give a passing thought to those brave hearted men and women who paved the way in the wilderness, cutting down the stalwart oaks, where our pretty villages are now teeming with life, and the shrill voice of the locomotive pierces the air with its horrid scream. Progress is an eternal law of nature, and the rough stone that is jostled from its bed in the mountain side with noisy pick and hammer, is polished and smoothed for the ornamental front of the palatial residence, or the mantel for the elegant parlor. The remark of the unsophisticated Irish woman, is worthy of thought. "What a beautiful world this will be when it is finished!" For our present wealth, prosperity and home comforts, in this favoured spot of earth, western Michigan, we are largely indebted to those pioneers who for the last half century have been helping to finish this "beautiful world."

Of this class, Mr. Joseph Ruggles name stands prominent, who is now passing a serene and comfortable old age in Decatur with his daughter and her husband, Mr. & Mrs. J. W. Young. Mr. Ruggles came into Hartford on the line of Keeler, one mile west of Mr. Olney's, in 1839. He moved from Ohio with his wife and five boys, with oxen and a wagon, the journey occupying two weeks. His two older sons were previously engaged chopping near Coloma, in the town of Watervliet, on what was called the Smith & Moffat Job, which probably was one inducement for the family to emigrate to this wilderness. The last part of the way to the "job" the road was only under-bushed, and from there to the place before mentioned—where Mr. Ruggles had selected for a home—there was no opening and the wagon had to be left, and a "travoy" constructed on which the household goods, Mrs. Ruggles and the children were conveyed to their future home. Every appearance was so different, from their former home in the pleasant state of Ohio, that Mrs. Ruggles could not restrain her tears. Mr. Green and his family lived on the Keeler line, near the future home of the Ruggles's, in small framed house which they also occupied until they could build a log house on their own premises. Mr. Ruggles went back to Ohio after moving his family and brought, the next time, some calves and a small flock of sheep—the first ever introduced into Van Buren County. The first year in the settlement they made five or six hundred pounds of maple sugar, and made basswood troughs for the sap. For the want of suitable vessels, it was a great labor to boil the sap away—tin-pans, pails, and even the tea kettle were put in requisition for the work. Their provisions brought with them from Ohio, lasted until they could raise corn, potatoes and vegetables on their slashed land. They did not attempt to raise wheat the first year; they bought that for fifty cents a bushel, or three bushels for a days work. Their first crop of corn and potatoes was not put into the ground in very precise rows or

squares but anywhere the light of the sun could penetrate—by the side of logs, stumps, or trees, and sometimes earth, to cover the seed, was scarce and leaves were used as a part of the covering. The reward of their labor was a beautiful crop of corn and potatoes, and the best quality of vegetables in great variety. The seed was brought from Ohio and outdid itself in the change of soil and climate. The floor of the new house was made of split basswood and was really nice and white. The first summer the logs were left without chinking in the sides of the building, which was a source of great uneasiness and discomfort to Mrs. Ruggles, on account of the wolves that prowled around the domicile nights; cautiously she tucked in the arms and legs of the little sleepers, under cover, before she retired to rest. The first few years there were no fences on the farm, and the little flock of sheep and calves had to be looked after every night, and brought into the fold. One sheep only was captured by a black bear, and in his hurry to get it away he dragged it between two saplings and left it.

Mr. Ruggles lived on this farm twenty-six years, and built on it the first frame barn in the town of Hartford, also Mrs. Ruggles wore the first piece of cloth that was made in the county, in a loom made after they arrived here. All the clothing for the large family was made, from wool or flax, in the log house, which was so near the large trees that care had to be taken to keep them from falling on the house—while chopping for a "clearing". Once, by a tree swaying in the direction not intended, the house appeared in imminent danger of being crushed, so that the children and all the valuables were removed, though they escaped the impending doom.

Just after the family moved into a new frame house—before removing provisions, clothing, and a piece of satinett cloth in the loom, from the old house, it was burned to the ground in the night, with many articles of value, and all their family supplies until harvest time. This was in the month of January, and Mr. Ruggles and the older boys were obliged to work by the day to replace the provisions that were consumed in the house.

In February 1849, a remarkable and thrilling incident occurred in the Ruggles family, by which, Eli Ruggles, now a resident of Decatur, then fifteen years of age, escaped miraculously with his life. It was on Sunday when the family had been away to meeting with their sled and oxen. During their absence one of the younger boys had dropped the well bucket into the well, and Eli went down on the rope to the bottom to obtain it, his father holding firmly the windlass. Placing a foot on each side on a stone, while he reached over for the bucket, one of the stones gave way and fell in, from that the one above it, until the boy saw that the whole wall was tumbling in; quick as thought he shouted for help, and his father commenced turning the windlass and he, to accelerate his escape, climbed the rope, but with all their hurrying, ten feet before he reached the top of the well, the whole wall but a few feet around the top—which was frozen—caved in, filling the well four feet above the boys head. His arms being in a position, climbing, to keep the stones from all their crushing weight on his body and head, he was saved. A small boy was dispatched on a horse to rally help, and the stones, one by one removed, by neighbors who had collected to help the distressed family. In two hours and forty minutes, the last obstacle to the unfortunate young man's release was removed and he was drawn out in rejoicing by sympathizing neighbors. Ansel Reynolds and Samuel Robinson, were the brave men who went into the well to remove the stones. Such self-sacrificing acts, that endangered their own lives, are worthy of a record in history, and they are a living testimony against the doctrine of total depravity.

Mr. Ruggles has been sorely afflicted in the loss of his eyesight for nearly a quarter of a century, but, though the natural sun has set in darkness on his life, there is an inner light that points the way to that better land "over the river" and he is almost there, cheerful, happy and hopeful.

We close this Historical sketch with two extracts from letters written by Fabius Miles and his wife—long residents of the town of Hartford—to friends in Watervliet, N. Y., bearing date, April, 12th, 1846, as better illustrative of the condition of the country at that time than any thing we can get

from the memory of the long ago times. HARTFORD, Van Buren Co. Mich.

April, 12th, 1846.

"Your letter of March 29th, was received the 9th of the present month, probably not quite as soon as it would have been if you had directed to Lawrence. Letters directed to Hartford, generally stop at Paw Paw, fourteen miles east of here, but sometimes they go west before they stop into Berrien county. I have travelled to almost all parts of the State since I have been here, in search of my mail, and have done nearly all of my travelling on foot. I have been to Kalamazoo, Battle Creek, Marshall, St. Joseph, Niles and Mishawake, and a hundred times or some less to Paw Paw.

Now for your first question, "What kind of a place is that you live in?" We live in the north-east part of town three, south of range, sixteen west, (called Hartford) on the north bank of Paw Paw river, in a small opening in the woods, of between four or five acres in a triangular form, a fence on two sides and the river on the other, with high banks and rapid water. Our shanty stands about 12 feet from the edge of the bank, which descends nearly perpendicular a distance of thirty feet to the water. The country about here, say, commencing five miles east and about the same south and west to the lake, and thence north as far as you please, is a dense and almost unbroken forest of heavy timber, consisting of beech, maple, ash, oak, basswood, white wood, black walnut, hickory, butternut, cherry, and occasionally large tracts of pine and hemlock, and some tamarack, and all varieties of elm. The soil is good, and the country, I think, more healthy than northern New York, generally; though subject to the ague and fever, but consumption is very rare.

Bearing the same date, Mrs. Miles wrote "With regard to your question about our place, I would say, that F. has given you a more correct description of it and the country than I could have done, as I have not been four miles from the shanty since I came here, one year ago last September, and I had a very imperfect idea of the country when I came in, as I was very much fatigued when I left the Railroad at Marshall. As to our particular location, I think it is quite pleasant, aside from all the inconveniences necessarily connected with it, the one half of which you cannot realize until you are placed in a like situation. Our nearest neighbors lived from a mile to a mile and a half off, until within a fortnight we have got a neighbor within fifty rods, and we think a good one. We have not kept a cow since we lived here, until now, and we have had neither milk nor butter for the last six months, except occasionally a little milk for the babe this spring. We have had no eggs nor sugar for six weeks. We should hardly have thought we could live as we do, when we were in Watervliet, but F. is leading all his efforts to build the mill, and until that is completed we will buy nothing that we can possibly get along without.

Don't be Deceived

BUT CALL AT THE

NEW STORE

—OF—

C. R. & F. E. AVERY

FOR YOUR

Dry Goods,

Great Sacrifices

Being made Daily

IN ORDER TO MAKE READY

FOR OUR

Spring Stock.

Call Early and Secure Bargains!

We are, respectfully yours,

807 C. R. & F. E. AVERY

PROBATE NOTICE
In the matter of the estate of WILLIAM S. CAMP, deceased.
All persons having claims against said estate must present them at the Probate Office, in Paw Paw, on Monday, January 23d, or Monday February 6th, 1871, and that six months from the date of this notice will be allowed for the presentation of claims.
Dated Jan. 2, 1871.
E. P. HARVEY, Administrator.

Don't fail to call and see those NEW style hats at Mrs. Hoyt's, they are selling fast at low prices.

At Van Auker's!

At Van Auker's!

At Van Auker's!

GREAT ANNUAL SALE.

Golden Opportunity for Purchasers

ALL DRY GOODS AT PANIC PRICES!

IMMENSE SACRIFICES.

Our Mammoth Stock of

DRY GOODS,

CLOTHING,

HATS and CAPS,

BOOTS and SHOES,

WITHOUT RESERVE—ALL TO BE CLOSED OUT WITHOUT REGARD TO COST.

LOOK AT THE FIGURES:

Splendid Dress Goods at 20 and 25 cents, well worth 40 and 45 cents

Best Quality Delains for 15 cents, worth 25 cents

GREAT BARGAINS IN BLACK ALPACAS.

Nice Double Shawls at \$3.50, worth \$6.00

Good Yard Wide Sheetings at 8 cents.

Good Bleached Sheetings at 10 cents.

All Wool Cassimeres at 75 cents, worth \$1.25.

All Wool Cassimeres at \$1.00, worth \$1.50

6-4 Cloakings for \$2.00, worth \$3.50.

Good All Wool Flannels for 40 cents, worth 60

30 Spring Hoop Skirts only 50 cents

Splendid 16 Bone Corsets for 75 cents
Without further enumerating prices, it is our purpose to make this the

THE GREAT CLOSING OUT SALE

OF THE SEASON!

GOODS IN EVERY DEPARTMENT AT AN UNPARALLELED DISCOUNT FROM OUR FORMER LOW PRICES.

GRODERIES VERY LOW.

Very Respectfully, A. VAN AUKEK.

MILLINERY

MRS. HOYT.

Has just opened a splendid assortment of NEW MILLINERY GOODS, which she offers at very low figures. Call and she will make prices suit, and show goods that will please you. Rooms over E. Smith & Co's. Paw Paw, Nov. 15, 1870. 805ly

DOWN, DOWN, DOWN.

A Good Young Hyson Tea, 5 Pounds for \$3.50.

THE DUTY IS OFF FROM TEAS AND I AM SELLING AT A PROPORTIONATE REDUCTION.

CALL AND SEE FOR YOURSELF J. S. DOWD, Decatur.

E. C. BUTLER

Having purchased the entire stock of

GROCERIES,

OF T. L. ROSS, and having just added largely to his usual fine stock, now offers extraordinary bargains in

Sugars, Coffees,

TEAS,

Syrups, Molasses, Spices,

FISH, CORDAGE,

Wooden & Willow Ware

And in fact everything in his line.

Produce bought and sold.

GIVE ME A CALL.

811 E. C. BUTLER.

Reduced Prices

AND

NO CREDIT.

We beg to advise our friends and the public that we are prepared to sell our goods as low as the lowest, and we are now selling

A COFFEE SUGAR, at 14 cents.

C COFFEE SUGAR at 12½ cents.

CHOICE RIO COFFEE at 25 cts.

LAGUARA COFFEE, at 30 cents

CHOICE Y. H. TEA, at \$1.00

GOOD SHEETING, 10 cents per yd.

And other goods at equally low prices, all of which we have FULLY RE-SOLVED to sell for CASH, or Ready Pay. By so doing we shall be able to pay cash for our Goods and sell them to our customers as cheap as any firm in Van Buren County.

816 JOHN M. RIDLON, Lawrence, Michigan.

Teas, Teas, Teas,

—AT—

J. S. DOWDS

Decatur, Mich.

I. A. WHITMAN,

DEALER IN

Vermont & Italian

MARBLE

MONUMENT, HEAD-STONES,

Tablets, Etc.,

PAW PAW, - - MICH.

I adopt this mode of advertising my business instead of employing agents. My object is, to reduce the expense of the business as much as possible, so by purchasing of me you pay no agents fees. You can also save the expense of delivering the work if you choose; besides you can select the Marble yourself, and see the style of it, as it will be, so there is no possible chance for being deceived or being disappointed.

By taking this course, there is a saving of from twenty to thirty per cent.—according to how far the purchaser comes.

You can readily see that the money I save by not keeping agents goes to the purchaser instead of the agent.

Agents claim that they can furnish work cheaper. That cannot be done, unless done by Apprentices. I furnish no work of that class as I employ no Apprentices.

My work and material cannot be questioned. Patronize home, if you can, and save money by so doing. 813

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Opposite the CLIFTON HOUSE, Paw Paw

All kinds of

FURNITURE,

kept constantly on hand, made to order and repaired. Our stock of

Spring Beds, Mattresses,

BED ROOM SETS,

CHILDREN'S CHAIRS,

Bureaus, Secretaries,

MIRRORS,

PICTURE FRAMES, ETC.

Is the most complete of any Stock in town.

Give us a call before purchasing elsewhere. We have everything usually kept in a first-class Furniture store and are bound not to be undersold by any firm in the County.

JOHN KOONS.

AUCTION SALES.

Those wishing Goods sold at Auction, or on Commission, in the Village or in the Country will be promptly attended to.

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